A. CLASS CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER G11B19/20 G11B19/02 G11B33/14 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G11B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Ejectronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Α PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1 vol. 1999, no. 10, 31 August 1999 (1999-08-31) & JP 11 126472 A (NEC HOME ELECTRON LTD), 11 May 1999 (1999-05-11) abstract PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN Α vol. 0172, no. 55 (P-1539), 20 May 1993 (1993-05-20) & JP 4 372731 A (OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO LTD), 25 December 1992 (1992-12-25) abstract Α US 2002/101815 A1 (NGUYEN VU T) 1 August 2002 (2002-08-01) Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 7 April 2004 15/04/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nt, Benfield, A Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016



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